

he participated in a meeting on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a holiday reception for the White House press corps.

December 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Senators to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Khalifa bin Zayid al-Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates, King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait, and King Abdullah II of Jordan to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Federal Election Commission: Robert D. Lenhard, David M. Mason, Hans von Spakovsky, and Steven T. Walther.

The President announced his designation of Andrew S. Natsios as a member of a Presidential delegation to Indonesia for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Commemoration on December 17–18.

The President declared a major disaster in Connecticut and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from October 14–15.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted December 13

Michell C. Clark,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Education, vice William Leidinger.

Michael L. Dominguez,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, vice Charles S. Abell, resigned.

Gary A. Grappo,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman.

Bradford R. Higgins,
of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Resource Management), vice Christopher Bancroft Burnham.

Bradford R. Higgins,
of Connecticut, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of State, vice Christopher Bancroft Burnham, resigned.

Raymond L. Orbach,
of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy (new position).

Anne-Imelda Radice,
of Vermont, to be Director of the Institute of Museum Services, vice Robert S. Martin.

Withdrawn December 13

Ellen G. Engleman Connors,
of Indiana, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of 2 years (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on April 4, 2005.

Edward L. Flippen,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, vice J. Russell George, which was sent to the Senate on January 24, 2005.

John M. Molino,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Policy and Planning), vice Claude M. Kicklighter, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on September 6, 2005.

Submitted December 14

Patrick Joseph Schiltz,
of Minnesota, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Minnesota, vice Richard H. Kyle, retired.

Jack Zouhary,
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Northern District of Ohio, vice David A.
Katz, retired.

Submitted December 15

Terrance P. Flynn,
of New York, to be U.S. Attorney for the
Western District of New York for the term
of 4 years, vice Michael A. Battle, resigned.

Stephen G. Larson,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice Robert
J. Timlin, retired.

Submitted December 16

Michael Ryan Barrett,
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Ohio, vice Walter Her-
bert Rice, retired.

Robert D. Lenhard,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2011, vice Danny Lee McDonald,
term expired.

Reginald I. Lloyd,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for
the District of South Carolina for the term
of 4 years, vice J. Strom Thurmond, Jr., re-
signed.

David M. Mason,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2009 (reappointment).

Norman Randy Smith,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Court Judge for
the Ninth Circuit, vice Stephen S. Trott, re-
tired.

Hans von Spakovsky,
of Georgia, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2011, vice Bradley A. Smith, re-
signed.

Steven T. Walther,
of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2009, vice Scott E. Thomas, term
expired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released December 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Homeland
Security Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend,
Secretary of Health and Human Services Mi-
chael O. Leavitt, and Secretary of Homeland
Security Michael Chertoff on the avian flu

Statement by the Press Secretary: Statement
on a Call for the Release of Dr. Kamal
Labwani and Other Prisoners of Conscience
in Syria

Released December 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Statement
on the Organization of Islamic Conference
(OIC) Summit Declaration

Fact sheet: Democracy in Iraq

Released December 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Scott McClellan

Released December 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the De-
cember 7 Presidential Directive on U.S. ef-
forts for reconstruction and stabilization

Released December 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Scott McClellan; Secretary of Home-
land Security Michael Chertoff; Chairman
Donald E. Powell of the Federal Deposit In-
surance Corporation, who is coordinating
Federal gulf coast relief efforts; Mayor C.
Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Lt. Gen.
Carl A. Strock, USA, commander and chief
of engineers, Army Corp of Engineers